

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
1 April 1985

STRATFORD, CT

Four men protesting U.S. military involvement in Central America were arrested Monday after climbing a fence into the Sikorsky Aircraft Division.

The four, members of the Atlantic Life Community, said they were protesting 'the use of Sikorsky-made Black Hawk helicopters in covert CIA operations in Nicaragua and El Salvador.'

They unfurled a banner that read, 'No more weapons to Central America' before they were apprehended by security guards at the sprawling facility which is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation, the nation's seventh largest defense contractor.

They were turned over to Stratford police and charged with criminal trespass in the third degree.

Arrested were John Bach, 37, Leonard Kilian, 52, and Timothy Quinn, 30, all of Hartford and Vincent Kay, 27, of New Haven.

Art Laffin, a spokesman for the alliance, said the act was to draw attention 'to the destructive use of life and property of the helicopters in Central America.'

The four issued a statement in which they claimed the helicopters were being used 'in covert CIA actions in the war to aid the contras in hit-and-run missions in Nicaragua.'

A Sikorsky spokesman said the men were apprehended shortly after they climbed the fence about 6 a.m. and surrendered peacefully, causing no damage or disturbance.

The statement said, 'The production and sales of military helicopter gunships to the dictatorships of Central America must stop.'

'The CIA's covert war against Nicaragua and El Salvador is both illegal and immoral, violating every principal of democracy and a common humanity. Thousands of innocent people have been killed by the use or aid of these Sikorsky-made helicopters,' the statement said.